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Sword

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Sword

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Dr. King's Dream Lives on at MLK Rally

Shelly Schwalm, contributing writer

How did you spend your day on January 21? Some took advantage of the day without classes by sleeping late, others caught up on homework, went to the mall or just relaxed on their day off. At Concordia University's Gangelhoff Center, however, the day was spent celebrating the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

The master of ceremonies, Deborah Watts, commended the crowd for making January 21 a "day on" instead of a day off. The festivities began with a morning rally at Central High School with speakers and performers. One presenter was Concordia student, Jessica Ellis, acting as an emcee for the morning.

From Central High the crowd marched down Marshall Avenue and filled the Gangelhoff Center (GC) while light snow fell. As people entered the GC to find their seats, the words of Dr. King resonated throughout the building from a recording of his famous "I Have a Dream" speech.

The program went on for over two hours while the crowd was awed by dancing, singing, and jazz music and inspired by dynamic speakers and Minnesota politicians. President Holst also addressed the crowd. Later, he was presented with the "Spiritual Dream Keeper's Award" because of his commitment to creating an inclusive environment at Concordia University.

Those in attendance at the MLK festivities heard messages of hope and how far civil rights and peace building has come. Alongside the message of hope was a plea for people to continue forward in peace.

The words of Minneapolis mayor R.T. Rybak reminded attendees of Dr. King's mission. "He waged peace. He took peace by the neck and made sure people shared it," said Rybak.

Watts expanded on this, and told the crowd to physically "stand up, step forward, and reach out" to touch someone else around them. She explained that if it is hard for us to reach out to



People from around the neighborhood celebrate Dr. King's accomplishments with a parade.
Photo by Colby Reinking

our neighbor next to us, then it's going to be nearly impossible to reach out to the world with peace.

The day was filled with messages of education, social action, better health care, equality, violence prevention and some even touched the topic of the war in Iraq. Dr. Gregory Clark was the keynote speaker for the event, and

his encouragement to the crowd was to be "bridge builders" in our communities.

Clark emphasized the importance of community and each person's responsibility to that community. "We talk about community, but we can't just be worried about our own, but everyone."

"I do believe there are still a lot of issues in society today dealing with segregation and a lot of injustices, but there have been major progress made. I love Black History Month because every year we celebrate it here at Concordia, I learn a little more about African American history and culture. I think for Concordia, Black History Month and MLK Day gives us a heightened sense of awareness and understanding of the diversity we have on our campus and in our country."

**DERSELL JOHNSON, MEMBER OF
CONCORDIA'S DIVERSITY REALITY TEAM**



"Dr. Martin Luther King is one example of the thousands of Blacks whose life and accomplishments had a major impact on the lives of all Americans. He unselfishly devoted his life to justice and peace for all, not just for a specific race, age, religion or class of people, but for all Americans. His beliefs, faithfulness, leadership and methods laid the groundwork for other marginalized groups domestically and internationally—to stand up and fight for their rights. Celebrating Martin Luther King's birthday is one way the United States gives homage to King's contributions, as not only an African American, but as an American Citizen."

**DR. CHERYL CHATMAN, EXECUTIVE VICE
PRESIDENT AND DEAN OF DIVERSITY**

CONCORDIA SPEAKS

Compiled by Lance Meyer, sports editor

The month of February is set aside each year for the celebration of Black History Month in the United States. The month long celebration honoring African-American Heritage got its start in 1976 as an expansion of Negro History Week which was established in 1926 by Carter G. Woodson.

For over 75 years, people have been taking time to both recognize significant events and important figures in African-American history as well as expose the harmfulness of racial prejudice.

Honored all over the country, Black History Month is an important celebration for our nation, and it has also become a very meaningful commemoration here within the diverse Concordia community.

Several Concordia leaders responded recently with their thoughts and feelings on what Black History Month means to them.

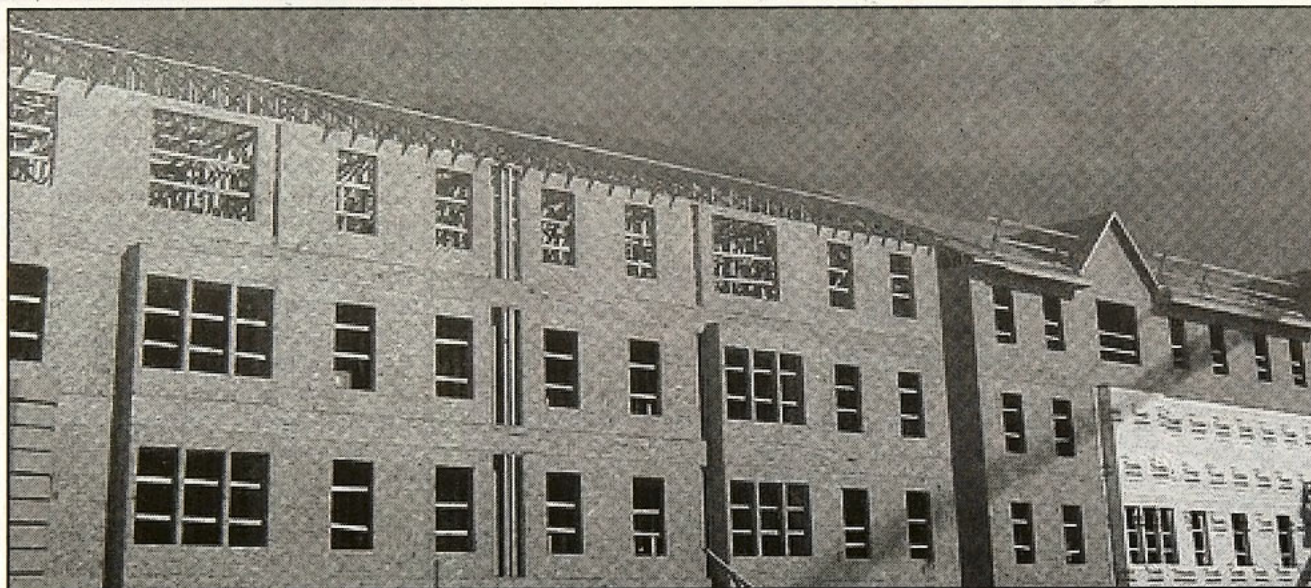


"I think it's an important time to celebrate our unity as Americans from all races and backgrounds. We can rejoice in the fact that we are not separated by walls of prejudice and hatred, but that we can come together and share in educational and career opportunities."

BILLY SCHULTZ, STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT

Concordia Launches into the 21st Century of Campus Living

Joshua Pehl, contributing writer



The new resident life hall is undergoing steady progress, students should be able to move in the next academic year. Photo courtesy of Tim Sailer

In this past school year, the campus community has seen a new structure rise where three older structures once stood. This new development on the east side of campus is no mystery to students – a new residence hall is being constructed.

"Of course it will enhance the campus community. It will bring us into the 21st century of upper class housing," said Residence Life Manager, Sharon Krueger Schewe.

St. Thomas, Augsburg, Hamline, Bethel and St. Kate's all have apartment-style student housing. St. Kate's recently opened theirs this past fall. This is a trend student housing has taken in the past decade; more and more students want to live in an apartment instead of a residence hall, especially upper class students.

"We're on track for a fall opening..."

--Jim Orchard

Concordia University, St. Paul may be one of the last to get apartment style housing in the area. The newest residence hall, Hyatt Village, was constructed in 1984. It was ahead of the curve when it was built, due to the suite-style housing. Today Hyatt is in need of some work after over 20 years of use. For that reason, Hyatt will be closed next year to make

these refurbishments.

This is good news for next year's sophomores. They'll be the only sophomore class to live in the new hall, along with upper class students. After next year, juniors and seniors are intended to be the prime occupants for the new residence hall.

LIFE IN THE HALL

When first entering the new residence hall, students will be greeted by a student worker at the front desk. There will be a laundry area and a media room. There are 69 four bedroom units and 8 two bedroom units, the later most likely reserved for RAs. Each student will have their own bedroom, and no more than two people will have to share a bathroom.

Students will also have comfortable furniture in the living area, not like the high endurance furniture in the current lounges. However, the details of how much and what kind are still being discussed.

Sharon Schewe, Jim Orchard and Jason Rahn have been traveling the country in the past few weeks visiting different furniture vendors. The final vendor will be chosen very soon.

"Once that happens, we will get some sample furniture," Schewe said. The bedrooms will have a desk, desk chair, bed and dresser.

There will also be dining area furniture because these units are equipped with something that many upper class students have been requesting for years: a kitchen.

A modified meal plan will be put into effect for apartment students, but this will take into account students will be cooking their own food.

From a residence life point of view, it will be important for residents to be intentional in getting out of the apartment once in a while. Schewe has been discussing this with the RAs who are in the apartments this year, so that they have a frame of how to modify RA strategies for next year's apartment RAs. The apartments being used now will be married and family housing next year.

CONSTRUCTION PROGRESS

The project was a bit behind schedule, but workers have made up for lost time due to the low amount of construction opportunities in the area for workers. Because of the size of our building, there can be at least 20 carpenters working at a time, which has sped up the process.

"The walls they were all pre-built and numbered off-site. This made things go extremely fast versus trying to build them from scratch on site," Orchard said. "We're on track for a fall opening, but things can happen, of course."

Information about housing sign-up for next year will be posted in the tunnel in a few weeks. Start thinking in groups of four!

For more information about the building project, including construction pictures and a webcam feed of the building, visit <http://www.csp.edu/rlc/>.

Student Athletes to Raise Breast Cancer Awareness

Tim Sailer, news editor



The Gangelhoff Center can say goodbye to the ol' blue and gold to embrace pink. On Feb. 9 at 6 and 8 p.m. the men's and women's basketball teams play against Northern State—Think Pink night. The Student Athletic Advisory Committee (SAAC) has organized Think Pink, which is sponsored by the Women's College Basketball Association (WCBA).

Lisa Raitz, assistant athletic director, said everyone will be wearing pink—coaches and workers will don pink polos, while SAAC will be giving away pink t-shirts to the first 200 students.

The event is organized to increase breast cancer awareness across the Concordia community.

"Everyone has been touched by cancer in some way," said Raitz. "This is a night to give back and help support those who have been affected, as well as have some fun while supporting the cause."

Three dollars of every ticket will also be donated to the Hope Lodge, "a place that offers free, long and short term housing to cancer patients and a caregiver," said Raitz.

The Minneapolis location has just opened in December and relies wholly on donations and volunteers to maintain supplies. Katie LaViolet, women's basketball point guard and co-president of SAAC, also says the lodge is a place "where cancer patients can help each other cope with what is going on and find hope in the support by others."

(continued on page 6)



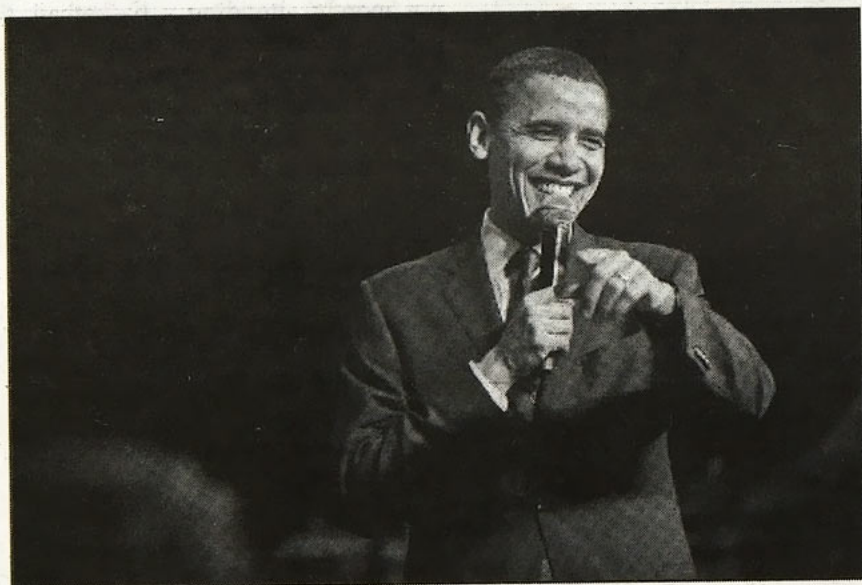
LaViolet, women's basketball point guard and co-president of SAAC.

PRE-ELECTION PRIMER: YOU DECIDE

Tim Sailer, news editor

Even though we're now in the midst of sub-zero temperatures, a sizzling upcoming election fuels enough heat for many voters this winter. It all began with the Iowa Caucuses, continued through Super Tuesday, and won't end until Nov. 4, 2008. It's pre-election season, and one way to battle campaign fatigue is to do your homework now.

This guide is intended to be a springboard for further discussion and research.



PHOTOS: All photos courtesy of Joe Crimmons (Above) Barack Obama, (Top Right) Mitt Romney, (Bottom Right) Rudy Giuliani.

IOWA AND THE CAUCUS

A caucus is believed to be derived from the Algonquin word for "gathering." In a sense, a caucus is a gathering of political party members to choose delegates for the party's national convention (see below). It's a face-to-face forum where members discuss a party's policies. Caucuses are known for being more "grassroots" than primaries.

Ultimately, the delegates chosen as a result of the Iowa caucus become a good indication of Iowa's national delegation. Delegates are usually "bound" to a specific candidate when voting in the national conventions. This caucus is also known for garnering a lot of media attention and motivation for the candidates. It is the first caucus of the year.

More details can be found on www.iowacaucus.org.

PRIMARIES

Primaries are a type of election. Voters directly choose candidates on a ballot—in secret. Some states have open or closed primaries; it depends on the state.

NATIONAL CONVENTIONS

After all of the primaries and caucuses, the Democratic and Republican parties will hold national conventions in Denver and in the Twin Cities respectively. At these conventions, a formal selection of the presidential and vice-presidential candidates occurs.

ELECTION DAY

Nov. 4, 2008. In reality, this is a combination of 51 state-wide elections for Electoral College. Voters are technically voting for an elector who has pledged to vote for the same candidate. There are 538 votes from the Electoral College. The candidate who wins over half of the electoral votes—

270 votes—wins the presidency. The House of Representatives would choose the next president if no candidate achieves 270 votes. The Electoral College doesn't formally meet until December, but it's usually clear who has won before then.

VOTING IN NOVEMBER

Next year, any student living in a university residence hall may vote in this local polling place. Sharon Krueger Schewe, residence life manager, submits a list of all the students living in the halls. A student ID will be required. Students have the option to vote absentee if they want to participate in their home elections.

WHERE DO YOU STAND?

There is a wealth of information on candidates and the political processes in the United States. If you're completely lost, curious or bored, this is a good way to see where you align with candidates is with the following online quizzes:

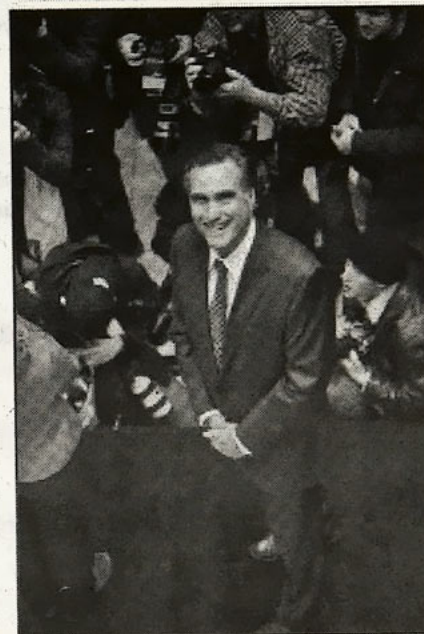
--http://minnesota.publicradio.org/projects/ongoing/select_a_candidate/

--<http://glassbooth.org/>

At the beginning, you are given 20 points to "spend" on a list of issues (such as foreign policy, health care, education, etc.), which is a way of figuring out which issues are most important to you.

Then you will select a level of agreement on a number of statements pertaining to these issues.

(PRE-ELECTION continued on page 6)



THE MAJOR CANDIDATES

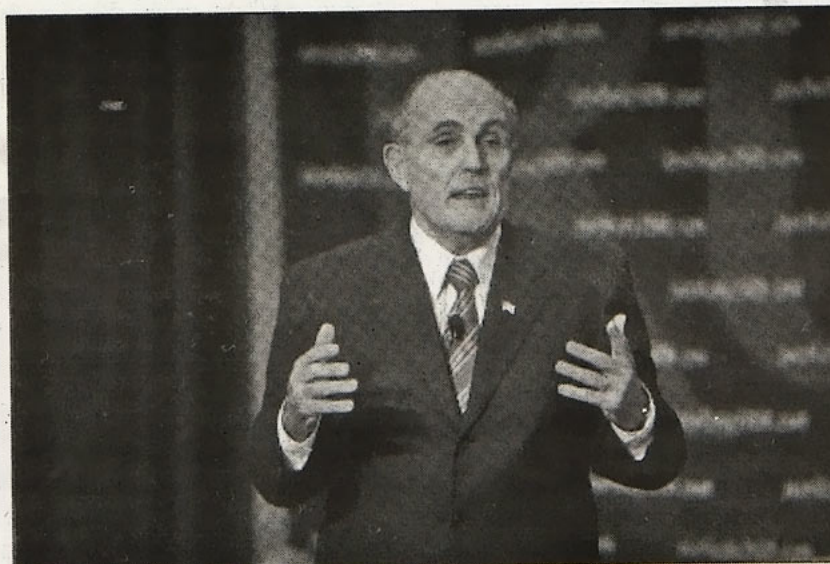
Many have announced they are running for the presidential election. Here are the major candidates in the news; this list is by no means exhaustive.

Democratic Party

Hillary Rodham Clinton
Maurice Robert 'Mike' Gravel
Barack H. Obama
John Edwards (has withdrawn his candidacy)

Republican Party

Michael D. 'Mike' Huckabee
John Sidney McCain
Ronald Ernest 'Ron' Paul
Willard Mitt Romney
Rudy Giuliani (has also withdrawn from the campaign)



Celebrate Black History Month at CSP

Thursday, Jan 31

Kick Off Event - "The Meeting"

A dialogue between Martin Luther King, Jr. & Malcolm X,
followed by an audience discussion.

7:30p.m. College Night at the History Center, 30 E Tenth St., St. Paul

Feb. 1-22

"A Moment In History"

Come and listen to students give a brief Moment in History
about African American achievers and leaders who
have made significant contributions that have impacted society.

11:30a.m. Tunnel near MH 122

Tuesday, February 5

Chapel led by UMOJA (United Minds of Joint Action)

Tuesday, February 5 - Discussion on issues related
to the film "The Great Debaters"

7-8:30 p.m. Culture Exchange Room (Multi-Cultural Room)

Wednesday, February 6 Convocation

"Shaped by History: Living in the Deep South during the Civil Rights Revolution"

12 noon Fred Bartling, Sr., LTC 218/219

Thursday, February 7

Theatrical performance by "Seeds of Change"

Central Touring Theater from Central High School

6-8 p.m. Buetow Auditorium

Wednesday, February 13

"Can We Talk About Hip Hop?"

12 noon Amity Foster, Dance Studio

Thursday, February 14

"Let's Impress Youth Express"

CSP students share personal goals, experiences
and aspirations with community youth.

3-6 p.m. Dunning Community Center

Sunday, February 17

"Somali Culture Night"

Featuring ethnic wear, foods and customs

7-9 p.m. Buetow Auditorium

Tuesday, February 19

"Looking Back; Moving Forward"

Recognizing alumni who graduated from the M-TEPS program.

6:30-8:30 p.m. Cross of Christ Fellowship Center

Thursday- Sunday, February 21-24

Pan African Student Leadership Conference

Minnesota State University, Mankato, Minn.

THINK PINK continued (from page 4)

LaViolet has been working on promoting the event. A couple weeks ago, members of SAAC went through the neighborhood to collect donations for the Hope Lodge.

Both Raitz and LaViolet have ensured there will be a lot of information on breast cancer in addition to prizes and gift cards from Cub Foods, Axel's Bonfire, The Wild Onion, Sweeney's, Dixie's and more. A gift basket will be awarded to the best-dressed female and male (valued at \$50).

"By thinking pink, students are not merely attending a basketball game, they are helping give hope to hundreds of cancer patients that will rely on The Hope Lodge for support in difficult times," LaViolet concluded.

PRE-ELECTION continued (from page 5)

For example: "I support or oppose unrestricted free trade."

Afterwards, the results will align you with candidates. This quiz is not intended to tell you whom to vote for.

A few Concordia students have taken the Glass Booth quiz.

Stephanie Guidera, a senior studio art major said "the quiz was beneficial—if not even to find out who you should vote for, just to get thinking about the issues. Humanity coasts by too fast without a thought for bigger issues."

Emmanuel Kuphal was skeptical of the quiz. "I don't know how much faith I have in it as far as using it as the only way of picking a candidate, but for lazy people, it's a good source of information," he said.

Rachel Hopkins, a sophomore, also took the quiz. She attempted to answer how Hillary Clinton would, but her top results matched with Barack Obama instead. Hopkins said it ended up changing her perspective.

This is only one quiz in a series of information and aids to help voters think about the candidates and issues.

Stephanie Guidera concluded her input on the quiz by saying, "The next step is turning off the Wii and actually doing something, right?"

Dave Horn to Visit CSP Feb. 12

Dave Horn is a Lutheran pastor, singer/songwriter and fingerstyle guitarist who proclaims the Gospel in music and story.

After attending Concordia College, St. Paul and Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Dave served parishes in North Dakota, Alaska and Minnesota, and spent three years as a US Navy Chaplain on active duty in the Pacific.

A parish pastor for 13 years, Dave's ministry now is to serve as a resource for others in their ministries. He has a particular interest in presenting the riches of the Gospel in a new and refreshing way through practical music with a wealth of Biblical imagery.

Dave's fans include people of all ages. His musical presentations at services, concerts and special events are noted for their quality, variety, humor and lightheartedness, and a challenging mining of Scripture.

AEX, Resident Life, History Club and Campus Ministry Host Horn

Tuesday, Feb. 12

11:00 AM Chapel

5:30 PM AEX Meeting (President's Dining Room)

8:00 PM FREE Concert (Chapel)

Concordia Students

Produce YouTube Hit

By John Pimental, contributing writer

"Wash My Back" by the Soap Boys is one of the newest hits on YouTube and the Concordia campus. Posted nearly two months ago on Dec. 13th, the music video stars many of Concordia's most interesting students and has compiled over 4,400 views. The video shows Concordia's more private areas on campus such as the men's locker room in the Gangelhoff Center and the men's bathroom near the Bear Center. The four artists in the video dance on tables in the Pearson Commons, jump around in the Campus Ministry Center, and terrorize anyone who walks the tunnel alone. With such growing popularity, many questions arise about the video's original concept, the reason for the video and the artists involved.



See the video at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t2wp8fmjB5I>

Adrian Perryman, known as DJ MV, recently hosted the second annual Twin Cities Hip Hop Awards and was nominated for Best DJ. Perryman (CSP '07) is the mind behind the song's title and the group name Soap Boys. Perryman spent many of his Concordia years in Centennial hall where the idea first occurred to him. Perryman says, "I was getting ready to take a shower and I was walking around in my towel and I didn't think I could handle washing my back. So I started walking around asking, who wanna wash my back?"

Maishon Holdbrooks, aka Mai-Day, and Dan McPherson, aka Animal, were in Centennial when Perryman asked the question and helped develop the idea. "We [Andy Wyss, Holdbrooks and Perryman] came up with 'Wash My Back' first and the Soap Boys group name felt appropriate," Perryman stated, "You can't wash your back without soap".

Continued on page 13...

What it Takes to Study Abroad

By Kaitlin Hartnett, editor in chief

As students prepare to graduate from college and enter "the real world," academic advisor Rosie Braun said that studying abroad can be an asset to any resume.

"The more you can put on your resume, the better off you are as far as employment," she said.

However, Braun said that there are certain barriers that prevent students from taking this opportunity.



Julie Rynkowski and Melissa Bergdall take in the sights on their January study abroad trip in Spain. Photo courtesy of Bergdall.

"There are always organizations that visit campus that want students to use their programs," she said. "The main problem is usually the cost, because they can be pretty expensive."

Scholarships from Concordia don't necessarily help. According to Braun, scholarships are more of a discount off of tuition, rather than actual money to pay out to an organization. Government grants and financial aid are a different story. Those can be used to pay costs and tuition for study abroad programs. "If we could find someone to donate more money, we could help fund so many more programs," Braun said.

According to a pamphlet from Academic Studies Abroad (ASA), prices for study abroad programs can range from \$3,695 for a one-month program in Vina del Mar, Chile to \$14,995 for a semester at Oxford in England.

**"Don't hold back...
It was by far the
best experience
of my life."**

—Julie Rynkowski

Julie Rynkowski, a junior who spent most of the month of January in Spain through the Center for Cross Cultural Studies, said that she recommends that students thinking about studying abroad should just go for it.

"Don't hold back," she said. "College is your last chance to spend money, be poor and have it be okay."

To pay for the program, Rynkowski said that Concordia helped her take out a loan, but she said it was still expensive because she had to pay for the program, airplane flights and a passport on top of tuition for the semester.

"The money aspect was difficult, but it was by far the best experience of my life," she said.

Braun said that students should consider programs carefully when studying abroad, because they are not only representing Concordia to other cultures, but the United States as well.

However, studying abroad in a different culture may not be for everyone. She also said that going abroad for a semester is not for the faint of heart.

"You have to persevere," Braun said. "We can't have any homesick kids or people that can't be self-reliant."

Rynkowski said that she made most of her arrangements on her own, including finding housing in Sevilla, Spain. For her transportation, she



Plaza del Torres in Seville, Spain. Photo courtesy of Bergdall.

walked everywhere.

"I loved being embraced by the culture and being able to speak only Spanish when I communicated," she said. "It was very exciting and much easier to learn rather than just in the classroom."

One question that students may have is about being on track for graduation. They wonder if they will be able to finish in four years, even with studying abroad for a semester. Braun said that students have a variety of options for classes within each program. They can register for classes that will fit their major in the other countries, and with some programs, earn 16-18 credits per semester.

She recommends that students use resources such as herself and the study abroad groups like ASA or even other schools to travel. "Going on your own is too scary," she said. "You can make it an experience without some of the higher costs."

Braun said that if students want to know more about studying abroad, they can always check the wall outside of Student Services in the tunnel, and representatives from study abroad organizations are always "willing to help."

Academy Award Coverage: Favorites and Hopefuls

By Justin Pinotti, contributing writer

The Academy Awards happen each year, honoring the best films from the year. Some years are stacked so full with wonderful movies that it is really fun to predict the winners and watch the event. Other years, like the last couple of years, can be almost as rough to watch as many of the films nominated. This year, however, was not a bad year for the Academy Awards. It doesn't feature the most exciting races ever: the Best Actress race is a complete joke and the Best Picture race itself won't hold a whole lot of surprise. But the rest of the categories are stacked to the brim with wonderful selections.

Here is a preview of the major categories and the nominees. I'll provide who I think the favorite it is, and while my opinion might conflict in a couple of the categories, I will make sure to note it.

Best Picture

Atonement

Juno

Michael Clayton

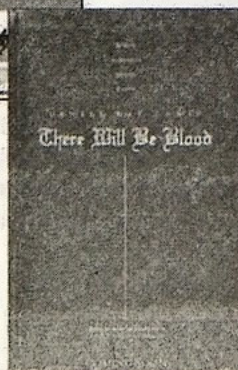
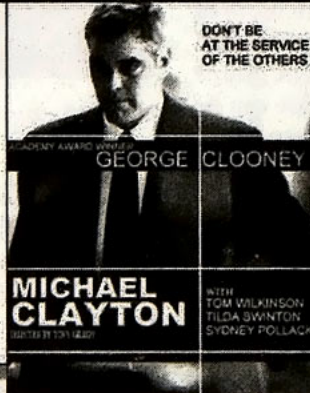
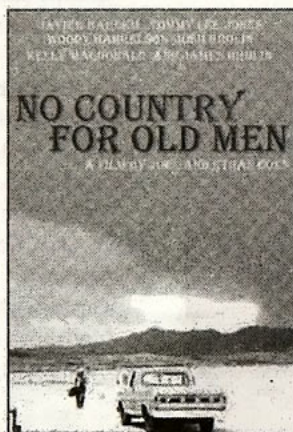
No Country for Old Men

There Will Be Blood

Favorite: "No Country for Old Men," the neo-western from the Coen Brothers, is the favorite out of this bunch and also my personal favorite. The movie received almost unanimously good reviews and audiences have gone out in droves to see it. The rest of the movies in this category were all very well received, but none had as much success as "No Country for Old Men." Its memorable chase scene, unique characters, and direction make this possibly the most iconic movie of the year.

Probables: "Atonement" and "Michael Clayton" each have seven total nominations which is a magical number of sorts and they are both incredible movies to boot. If George Clooney wins Best Actor, it might not be all that far fetched to say that "Michael Clayton" pulls the upset.

Long Shots: "Juno" was an audience favorite, and "There Will Be Blood" had one masterful performance. Of course both were critically well received, but what isn't that goes up for Best Picture? I don't know if either movie has enough going for it to pull the upset, but I also wasn't too big a fan of either film.



Best Actor

George Clooney, "Michael Clayton"

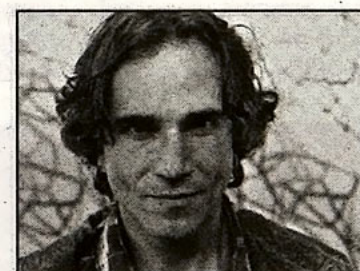
Johnny Depp, "Sweeney Todd"

Tommy Lee Jones, "In the Valley of Elah"

Daniel Day Lewis, "There Will Be Blood"

Viggo Mortensen, "Eastern Promises"

Favorite: Daniel Day Lewis has to be the clear cut favorite here; no one actor has received the endless amount of praise he has. He is a very good actor, but there are striking similarities between the character he played [character's name] in "There Will Be Blood," and the one he played in [character's name] "Gangs of New York." Both were flamboyant figures hiding a very sinister, evil man underneath. I also wasn't too big a fan of the film in general, and since he is essentially the driving force of the movie, it's tough for me to find validity in this award.



Daniel Day Lewis

Alternatives: If there is anyone who appears to have even a remote shot of winning this award, it would be my favorite choice, Viggo Mortensen ("Eastern Promises"). Viggo Mortensen's portrayal of Russian mob boss Nikola Luzhin was a special performance and something that doesn't come around much. But when it does, it is normally affiliated with names such as Robert De Niro or Michael Caine. "Eastern Promises" as a film in general was one of the most overlooked films in the Academy Awards. But it was nominated where it counts and possibly could pull off the upset. The other three actors all have reasonable chances to win, but from my perception none of them has enough positive steam.

Best Supporting Actor

Casey Affleck, "The Assassination of Jesse James"

Javier Bardem, "No Country for Old Men"

Philip Seymour Hoffman, "Charlie Wilson's War"

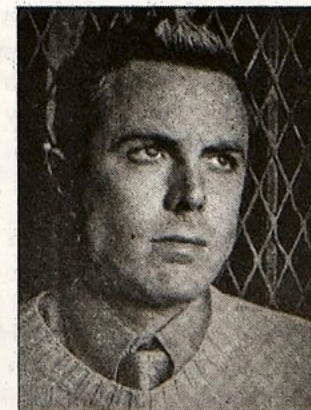
Hal Holbrook, "Into the Wild"

Tom Wilkinson, "Michael Clayton"

Favorite: As with Best Supporting Actress, and as per usual, these are the two strongest categories of the whole lot. Anyone could win these and anyone deserves to win. Javier Bardem's role of the crazed sociopath hit man [character name] in "No Country for Old Men" has garnered him universal praise and has made him the favorite to win the award. I loved the movie and loved him in it. It would be cool if he won, but there are so many other great performances in this category.

Alternatives: Casey Affleck is one of my absolute favorite actors, and was snubbed out of a Best Actor nomination for his role in my favorite movie of the year, "Gone Baby Gone." He rules in the "Assassination of Jesse James," as much as Robert Ford and I would love to see him get it, Phillip Seymour Hoffman was by far the best part of "Charlie Wilson's War," owning every second he was on screen.

Long Shot: Hal Holbrook ("Into the Wild") is a borderline no-name in a sea of great actors and performances and getting caught up in the hype of the other roles, he probably stands little chance to win.



Casey Affleck

Best Actress

Cate Blanchett, "Elizabeth: The Golden Age"

Julie Christie, "Away from Her"

Marion Cotillard, "La Vie en Rose"

Laura Linney, "The Savages"

Ellen Page, "Juno"

Favorites: This is the most boring category this year and that is evident with the fact that the Academy couldn't find an actress they liked better than Cate Blanchett's reprisal of Elizabeth in "Golden Age." This film was one of the worst and also most critically panned films of 2007. Also falling into this category is an actress from a movie that was seen by about 30 people in the theaters ("Away from Her") and a foreign film actress (Marion Cotillard, "La Vie en Rose").

My personal favorite is "La Vie en Rose" was by far the best foreign language film of 2007. It is one that had it been made in English probably would be a favorite to win Best Picture, along with many other awards. Marion Edith Piaf was terrific, and I enjoyed her and the thing else in this category.

Alternatives: Ellen Page ("Juno") has a lot going that was praised by everyone but me. She could last year for her role in the spell-binding "Hard legitimate shot of winning this year. She's possibly ering her movie is far and away the most popular Julie Christie ("Away from Her") also has received critics, but her downfall is that the movie was remost of the country, is going to make it tough for

Long Shots: For all intents and purposes Cate this award (as indicated by my opinion of the film above). However, stranger things have happened, but it would be a sight to see a critically mauled film like that get to boast an Academy Award. Laura Linney ("The Savages") is a fine actress, but much like Christie, no one saw her movie and if the Academy is going to award a movie no one saw, it's going to be Christie.



Marion Cotillard



Ellen Page

for her with a movie have won this award Candy," so she has a the favorite here consid-movie in this category. unanimous praise from leased direct to video in her to win this award.

Blanchett shouldn't win

Best Supporting Actress

Cate Blanchett, "I'm Not There"

Ruby Dee, "American Gangster"

Saoirse Ronan, "Atonement"

Amy Ryan, "Gone Baby Gone"

Tilda Swinton, "Michael Clayton"

Favorite: Another absolutely fantastic year for the Best Supporting Actress category! This time, Cate Blanchett is nominated for actually being in a good movie ("I'm Not There"), and Amy Ryan ("Gone Baby Gone") gave an almost hauntingly realistic portrayal of a drugged-out single mother who just lost her only child. Those two have to be the clear-cut favorites, however, the fact is Cate Blanchett played a man as one of the most popular icons in the history of music (Bob Dylan) in the movie "I'm Not There." I loved Amy Ryan in my favorite movie of the year "Gone Baby Gone," and I think she has probably the best chance of winning outside of Cate Blanchett.

Alternatives: Tilda Swinton, ("Michael Clayton") is probably the only other woman who has a decent shot of winning this award, playing a semi-villain in "Michael Clayton." She was good, and the movie was good, but I don't think she has nearly as good of a shot to win it as the afore-mentioned women do.



Cate Blanchett

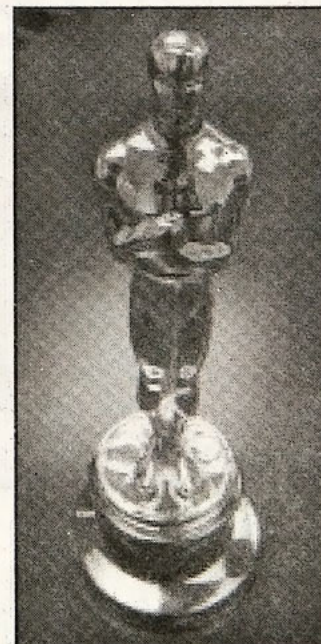
And the Award Goes to...the Writer's Strike?

By Justin Pinotti, contributing writer

As many of you may be aware, the Golden Globe Awards this past month were issued by means of a press conference, instead of the usual song and dance that takes up a night of our lives. Basically, the fun of an awards show was taken out. The Golden Globes did not telecast live because of two reasons. One reason is that The Writers Guild of America, the union that writes for events like awards shows, has been on strike for the past three months. If this were not enough, The Actors Guild of America issued a statement saying they would not cross the picket lines against their "brothers" in the Writers Guild, which effectively killed the ceremony.

One of the big issues concerning the Writers Guild strike is that of DVD sales and the kick-backs the writers get from the sales. Back in the 1980's, which was the last time the WGA went on strike, home video was an unproven market place, so the negotiations settled on writers receiving around .3 percent of the sales of the home videos sold. However back then, home videos were selling between 40-100 dollars per tape and weren't really a big deal in terms of money-making. Once manufacturing costs for video tapes dropped to where they are today, sales exploded. When DVDs came out, home video became the major money focus of many studios. The current proposal of the WGA with home video is a raise to 2.5 percent of the sales per DVD.

How the strike will affect the Academy Awards has yet to be seen. There has been no notice of the WGA striking the ceremony or the Actor's Guild boycotting the ceremony. It would be really interesting to see if a deal is cut soon to avoid one of the bigger television events of the year reduced to a press conference.



**For the real winners,
watch the**

**80th annual Academy Awards
on Sunday, Feb. 24**

Theatre Students Visit Big Apple

By Rachel Kuhnle, contributing writer

New York City is an American theatre holy land. Even beyond the revolving doors of a Broadway playhouse, theatre is in the lights, the traffic, and the people on the sidewalks. "It's a place where you can smell what kind of gum the person walking by is chewing," Stephanie Guidera observed. It is "a place where at midnight you can stand in the middle of a street and be in [just as big a] crowd as at lunch time."

For seven days in January, a party of nine Concordia theatre majors and minors made their pilgrimage to the city that made greats of Arthur Miller, Eugene O'Neil, and where the Phantom's chandelier has fallen for twenty years. After twenty-some shows between them all, Guidera noted, "It is a city that you don't want to sleep in, fearing that you'll miss something."

The students were accompanied by Dr. Jeff Burkart, Associate Dean of the College of Voca-

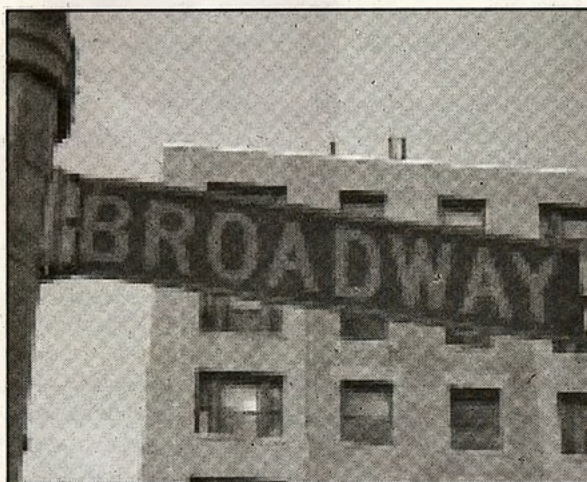


Photo courtesy of Michael Rokenbrodt

mused, "would approach a box office and peer over his glasses and say, 'I'm trying to see a good show for a good deal, what can you give me? \$59, can you do better?'"

Kait Craig and her traveling entourage swore by the TKTS discount booths, where they got half price tickets to such popular shows as "Spring Awakening," "Avenue Q" and "Wicked."

Josiah Laubenstein believed differently. "Avoid the TKTS booths," he advised. "There were always long lines in the cold. It is way cheaper to just go to the box office and do a student rush." Laubenstein saw plays including Harold Pinter's "The Homecoming" and Tom Stoppard's "Rock'n Roll" as well

as some off Broadway shows. "That's the real secret to cheap seats," Laubenstein laughed, "See plays no one cares about."

Student favorites were "Wicked," "Legally Blond" and "The Fantasticks", a show performed at Concordia during the 2006-2007 season in which Rokenbrodt, Craig and Jameson Baxter were cast members. "Rock'n Roll" was also noted as a great show, as well as 2007 Tony Award Winner "Spring Awakening."

Guidera noted a performance of "Cyrano de Bergerac" with theatre (and cinema) great Kevin Kline and familiar name Jennifer Garner. Guidera said, "Jennifer Garner was terrible. Awful stage actress...but I did meet her and she was very nice at the door."

Non-theatre highlights included The Statue of Liberty, the Empire State Building, and, as Craig declared without hesitation

as her favorite overall experience, Ellis Island. "It was such an unforgettable experience" Craig said. "Being able to stand in the same spot that my great-great grandparents stood in 100 years ago truly touched me."

Laubenstein visited family in the city with friends Guidera, Baxter, and Katie Johnson, allowing them to experiencing a unique NYC view from a neighboring church's rooftop. Guidera, an art major, enjoyed the many art museums, and Central Park was also a key place of interest.

Back from New York, the students were eager to share their experiences and pictures. They will meet a few more times over this semester with a final project of a presentation of their experience and sharing of their individual educations.



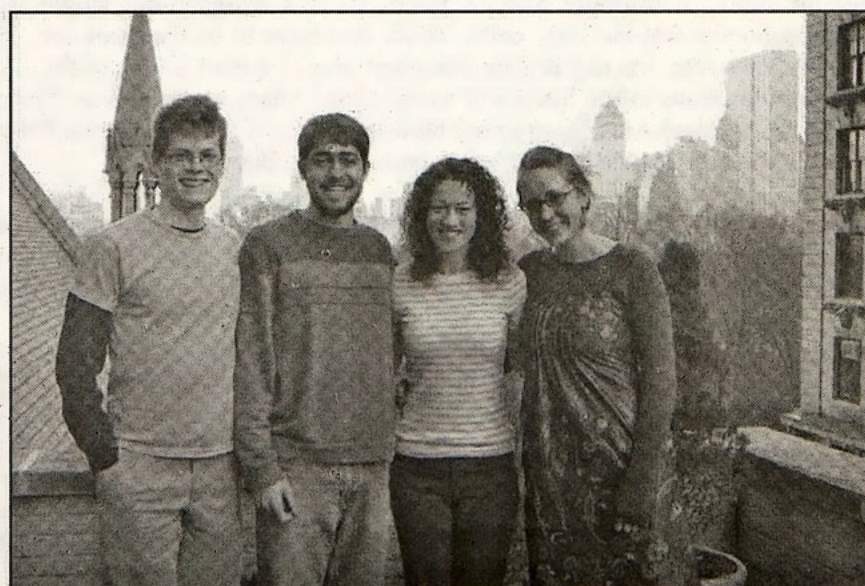
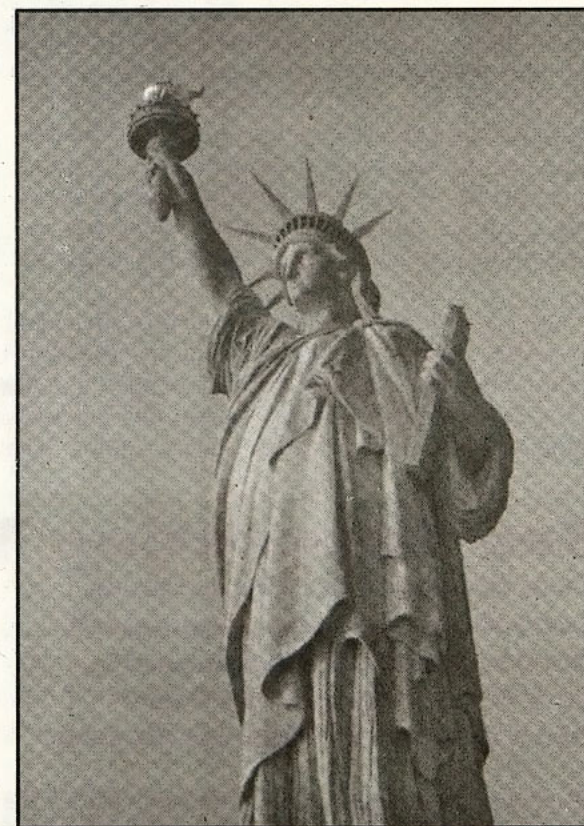
Group photo courtesy of Dr. Jeff Burkart

tion and Ministry and Director of Drama Ministry and his wife, Martha Burkart, CSP Curriculum Librarian and Serials Coordinator. Student Michael Rokenbrodt said, "There was no real itinerary. [Dr. Burkart] said basically this is your guys' trip. We met in the mornings and we all checked in in the evenings but we really had the opportunity to see whatever we wanted." Burkart had staked out the area and informed students of all sorts of deals. Free reign in a city of roughly 8.2 million people was, as Rokenbrodt admitted, "quite nerve-racking."

"The real secret to cheap seats [is to] see plays no one cares about..."

--Josiah Laubenstein

The students, Rokenbrodt included, quickly overcame their Minnesota shyness, but not their characteristically Midwestern fiscal prowess. Never accepting full price, the group quickly learned the ways of haggling. "Dr. Burkart," Rokenbrodt



Jameson Baxter, Josiah Laubenstein, Katie Johnson and Stephanie Guidera (l-r) take in the city sights from a church rooftop. Photo courtesy of Guidera.

Where Have All the Professors Gone? Revisited

By Susanna Mennicke, contributing writer

Last semester, *The Sword* asked, "Where Have All the Professors Gone?" This semester, three of those missing professors have returned from their sabbaticals and leave of absence. Drs. Guidera, Ibrahim-Devries, and Trapp spent all or part of the semester away from the Concordia campus, enriching their knowledge and experience in their respective fields.

Dr. George Guidera, Professor of Teacher Education, spent his fall semester as a faculty fellow with the National Education Association. He observed how the NEA operated as an organization, a research institute, and as a representation for teachers on a federal level. He found it interesting how the NEA worked for teachers to "get their voice out."

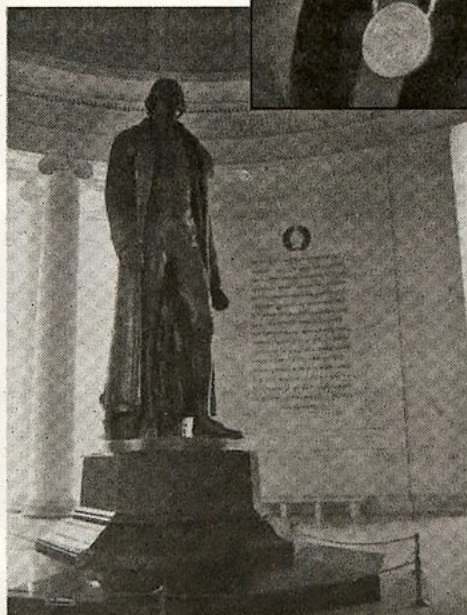
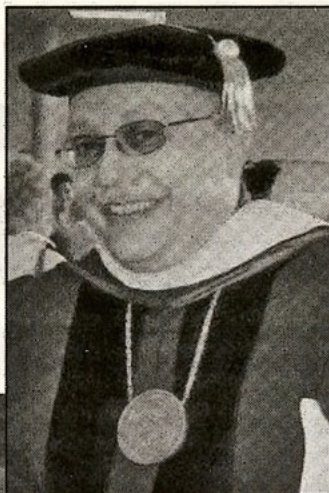
Guidera was also able to be involved in the work the NEA did. He stated, "They really allowed me to be part of their team. They asked my advice... I went to their meetings, sometimes the lobbyists would pull me aside."

Guidera considered his fellowship a rewarding experience. He formed friendships and gained confidence in the "messiness" of government processes. "Too often we think there's nothing we can do," said Guidera, "To watch the activity and the passion of these people... was very impressive."

Dr. Basma Ibrahim-Devries, Professor of Communication Studies, took a leave of absence last semester to teach on the maiden voyage of the Scholar Ship, a unique semester abroad program open to graduate and undergraduate students from colleges and universities from around the world.. The Scholar Ship took over 200 students and faculty across the globe on an old cruise ship, making weeklong stops in six countries from Greece to China. A map titled "Where in the World is Basma?" outside of Ibrahim-Devries's office marks the dif-

ferent countries she visited while with the Scholar Ship.

As a communications professor with a special focus in intercultural communications, Ibrahim-Devries noted that the various national, ethnic, and economic back-



grounds of each person on the ship made it so "every experience was an intercultural experience."

Working on the first Scholar Ship presented its challenges, especially when it came to intercultural communication. Appropriately, intercultural communication was one of the core subjects for students to learn about in the program. "It's an amazing experience... unlike anything in the world," said Ibrahim-Devries. "It is definitely open to Concordia students, and I encourage anyone who's interested to come and see me."

Dr. Trapp, professor in the Department of Natural Sciences, spent part of last semester here in the Twin Cities

and some in the Pacific Northwest on a sabbatical that was part work, part recreation. In September, Trapp and two of his daughters took a week-long trip to Washington state, because Trapp had never been there, and "because there's lots of geology out there," Trapp stated. The trio spent a busy and exciting week visiting the active Mt. St. Helens, viewing wave-formed rock in the Pacific Ocean, and attending a Mariners game, along with other activities that allowed Trapp to soak up the local geology and culture and gather new samples and pictures to use in his classes.

Trapp's other teaching subject, astronomy, kept him busy with two projects. First, he built an apparatus to help himself set up the fourteen-inch telewons.

Trapp's other project involved "getting reacquainted with the sky." Because of the frustration of observing from a city sky, Trapp had not been able to observe the stars as he liked. However over his sabbatical, he was able to work with digital pictures and modify them with a software program in order to locate variable stars (stars that have variable brightness). He hopes to be able to apply what he has done with his students, especially the observation of variable stars.



Lower Left: A Sitka Spruce Tree found in the Hoh Rainforest, a national park in Washington State. Photo courtesy of Dale Trapp.

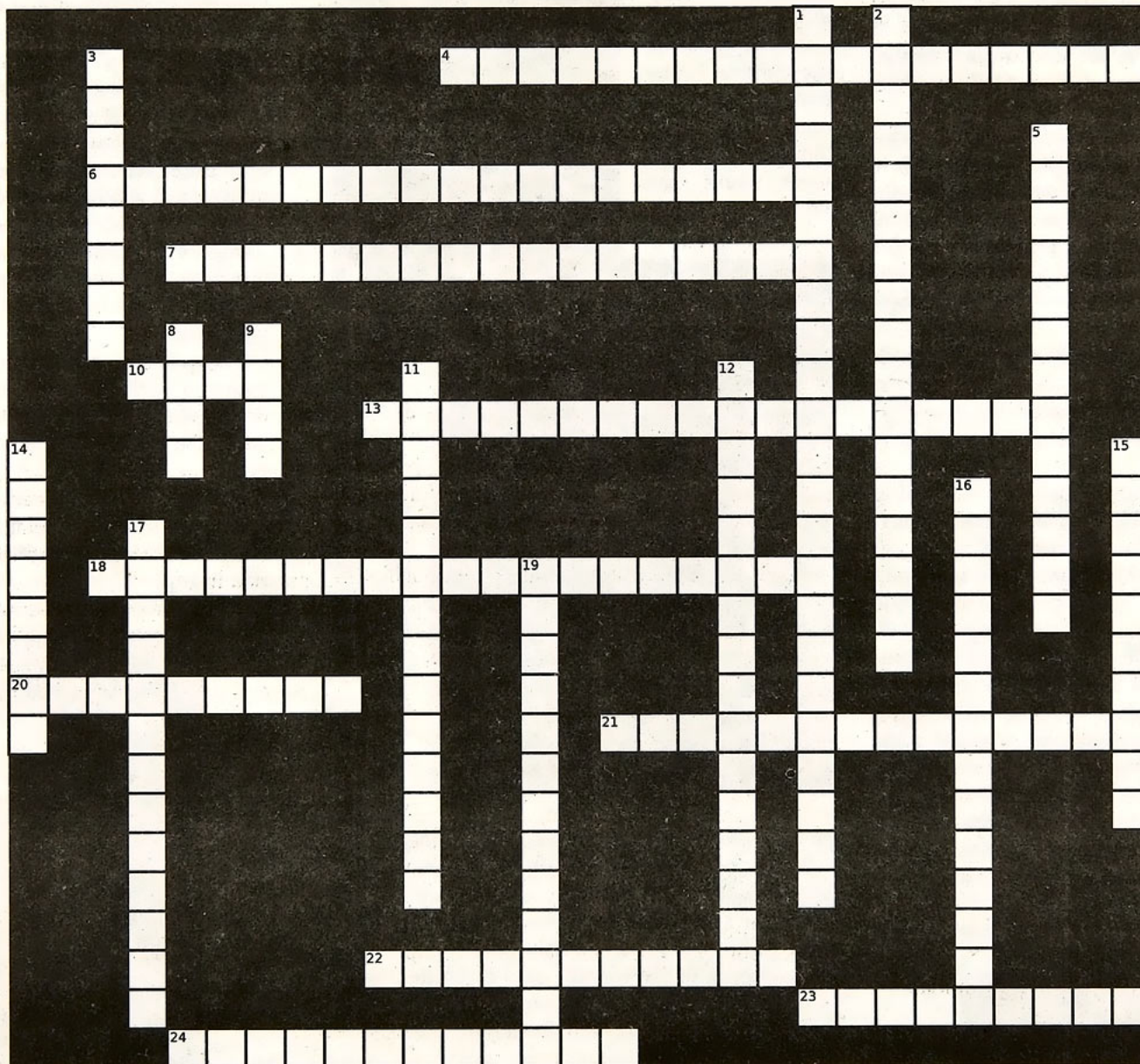
Lower Middle: A statue of Thomas Jefferson and an engraving of the Declaration of Independence, where Dr. Guidera visited. Photo courtesy of George Guidera

Lower Right: Dr. DeVries and fellow students of the aft deck of the Scholar Ship. They are all wearing their native dress. Photo courtesy of Basma Ibrahim-Devries.



Black History Month

Lance Meyer



Across

- 4 First African-American local elected official in 1855
- 6 Founder of Black History Month
- 7 American Abolitionist, writer, and reformer who was fond of saying, "I would unite with anybody to do right and with nobody to do wrong."
- 10 NAACP was founded in New York City.
- 13 Famous Civil Rights activist who delivered his famous "I have a dream" speech in 1963
- 18 Author of the novel, Uncle Tom's Cabin
- 20 Called the "Mother of the modern-day Civil Rights Movement"
- 21 President who issued the Emancipation Proclamation to free the slaves.
- 22 First African-American U.S. Senator
- 23 Amendment giving African Americans the right to vote.
- 24 First African-American U.S. Representative

Down

- 1 Supreme Court case that declared racial segregation in schools to be unconstitutional.
- 2 Literary, artistic, and intellectual movement that fostered a new black cultural identity in the 1920s.
- 3 One of the two most powerful members of the Black Muslims and a minister of the Nation of Islam.
- 5 Students who took bus trips through the South to test out new laws that prohibited segregation in interstate travel facilities.
- 8 Year President Harry S. Truman issued an executive order integrating the U.S. armed forces.
- 9 Year Black History Month was established
- 11 First African American Baseball Player
- 12 First African-American U.S. Supreme Court Justice
- 14 When is Black History Month?
- 15 The Constitutional Amendment that prohibits slavery.
- 16 First US college for black women.
- 17 First black student to enroll at the University of Mississippi in 1962.
- 19 Celebrated female leader of the Underground Railroad

Engagement Epidemic

By MaryLynn Mennicke, contributing writer

I was surprised the other day when a male friend said, "I've come to terms with the fact that I'm not going to be getting married right after college... I thought that life went high school, college, marriage."

I paused to think. Marriage had never been anything more than a blip on my radar of future possibilities. Keyword: future. I was not the girl who had her wedding flowers chosen and the names of future children embroidered on baby bibs by the time I was 8. When I was a little girl attending more than a dozen weddings of my father's college students, I remember thinking they were so old, so mature.

"I never thought I'd be dating, much less engaged... but God had different plans."

--Emilie Wiegler

Conclusion: I'd get married the day I was old and mature. It never occurred to me until recently that many people my own age consider themselves old and mature enough to marry.

I'd have to be blind not to notice the recent engagement epidemic on the Concordia campus. Facebook will crash if one more photo of is uploaded into any album entitled "The Ring."

Seeing all of the en-



gaged couples on campus made me curious: Did they all have a high school-college-marriage plan? Were their upcoming marriages the final piece in their life puzzles?

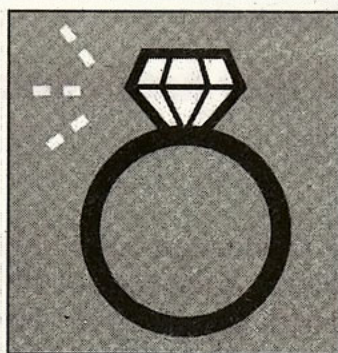
Seven couples (three of which have fiancés who do/did not attend Concordia) were gracious enough to answer my questions and share their stories with me.

Michael Heiden and Joy Wilson became friends by playing (and betting on) Mario Kart, and their first date was the result of a bet. For Anna Strei and Adam Koglin, it was their FYS class but it took Approaching Art class to "really hit it off." Ryan Marshall and his fiancé, Madeline, "ran around in the same crowd" in high school, and Josh Huber and Amanda Busby ('05) met at a beginning of the year mixer for the club STAGE. These stories seemed casual and unpremeditated enough.

How did they know they were right for each other? "I just did. It felt right," said Kayleigh Klein, engaged to David McCarthy. McCarthy agreed: "My mom always told me that when I found the right one it would be akin to getting hit across the head with a frying pan....With Kayleigh it was more like getting run down by a car."

Kelli Jensen indicated several things about her relationship with her fiancé, Mark, that convinced her he was "the one." "We can be serious together and we can be silly together. We respect and love each other, and feed off of one another's energy. He is definitely the one, no question." Emilie Wiegler had a slightly different perspective. "There are probably a number of guys that I would be compatible with, same as any person. I just happened to fall in love and we decided to get married."

Did these individuals always planned to get en-



gaged during college? For Michael Heiden and Joy Wilson, their answer was yes. Much to my surprise, theirs was the only resounding (and excited!) yes.

"I never thought that I would be dating, much less engaged. I just assumed that I would remain a single, happy and career-driven woman, but God had different plans," said Wiegler. Jensen stated, "I thought getting engaged during my college years was a little unrealistic since I had not had any really serious relationships."

"I didn't think I'd even find a serious girlfriend right away in college," stated Josh Huber. "However, it seldom happens that you can choose who and when you love and when God drops a gift in your arms like he did for me, you don't just throw it away."

Receiving all of these sincere, humorous, realistic, and very different responses made me ponder: engagements were not about prescriptions. Even those who had looked ahead and seen marriage in their future could not plan their relationships nor what exactly what was ahead for them in their married lives.

Getting engaged was also not a "ready or not, here I come" decision based on solely being in love. Each couple shared the sacrifices they were about to make, the huge changes ahead, and their commitment to working as a team in all situations. They are excited to enter into a new part of their lives that not as a conclusion to a life plan, but is a freeing beginning to a brand new life.

Continued from pg. 7

Andy Wyss, a junior double majoring in graphic design and multimedia communications, brought his talents into the video production area and created a stunning piece of work with "Wash My Back". Wyss, more commonly known as DJ WyZz, is also the artist behind such mash-up albums as "I Stepped My Game Up" and "The Surgeon General." His reason behind the video comes right out of a class offered at Concordia: COM 224. "The other guys always had this idea but they never got it off the ground", Wyss commented. To no surprise Wyss finished the project receiving a very satisfying A.

There has been much talk for a remix. Perryman explains, "The remix will be coming with 3,000 people on it. A dirty version seems very appropriate, but the exact idea has not been finalized yet."

A Journey Through Twin Cities Theatre

High production values help, but they aren't everything for a performance

By Tim Sailer, news editor

If you didn't know by now, the Twin Cities are jam-packed with arts and entertainment. I don't know how to sift through it all. I pour over "The City Pages," "Vita. MN," "The Star Tribune," and "Pioneer Press" only to be inundated with possibilities.

When time and price are right, I'll end up at someplace like the Guthrie one evening and the Bedlam Theatre the next. And I did just that, attending the opening weekend production of "Peer Gynt" at the Guthrie Theater and then Cromulent Shakespeare Company's "Titus Andronicus."

"The Sword" has glowed about the Guthrie and very little else when it comes to theatre in the Twin Cities. I'm afraid I'm going to perpetuate this trend. But "Peer Gynt"

is just that good. English actor Mark Rylance becomes the legendary inveterate liar of Peer Gynt, exploring the human journey, which takes place in a large barn on stage. Gynt travels through Nordic forests, a kingdom of trolls, a ship at sea, a desert, an insane asylum, and back home to his bride in three hours.

The entire production runs smoothly, aided by a new translation of Henrik Ibsen's epic by Minnesota poet, Robert Bly. He manages to imbue a word like "friggen" in the verse, and it manages to fit.

The Guthrie experience seems to be about classic theatre with pops of edge and surprise. The money flows in the giant blue playhouse. The patrons are a range of students, tourist families, and the lofty regulars. I

My friends and I walked into the first row of the small theatre. The brown-haired woman we sat in front of told us she and her husband were moving because our heads were in the way.

The show started seven minutes late, but it was gripping from the first moment. The actor playing Saturninus was in a long leather trench coat and his head was shaved like Andrei Agassi's.

While the production values of this were considerably lower than of "Peer Gynt," I found myself just as captivated and intrigued by the performance. The actors were very clear in their delivery of one of Shakespeare's most violent and

trius). Her hands get chopped off and her tongue is removed. She spewed blood a mere two feet from my chair. That's how close and intense the production became. The evil and passion of the characters were infectious.

Charles Hubbel played the title role of Titus Andronicus and he was able to explore a wide range of colors and nuance with a maniacal character. With wide, sickly eyes, he serves Chiron and Demetrius (baked into meat pies) to their mother Tamara in the end. The ruthlessness never ends, and I loved it.

Both productions were a testimony to the vast array of entertainment the Twin Cities offers. I was marveled at how much a show can transport an audience no matter the budget. What bridges the productions together is the performers' ability to communicate the heart of the script. Not everything will always be excellent. It's difficult to sort through it all, but there are gems scattered throughout the area. If you attend any performances, let us know at "The Sword." We want to know kind of events are worth seeing (and what aren't).

"Titus Andronicus" is no longer running, but Cromulent Shakespeare Company will produce "Sense and Sensibility" later in the year. Visit www.cromulentshakespeare.org for more information.

"Peer Gynt" will run through March 2. For tickets and more info, go to www.guthrietheatre.org.



Mark Rylance as Peer Gynt in the Guthrie's production of "Peer Gynt."

loved experiencing the mind-boggling and captivating performance of "Peer Gynt."

The next evening, I attended "Titus Andronicus" at the Bedlam Theatre, which is a rustic lounge theatre in Westbank Minneapolis. It was pay-what-you-can night.

It was difficult to come off the Guthrie high, but I managed.

bloody plays.

The design of the show was jagged and gothic, complete with black leather, chains, and plenty of blood.

Lots of blood.

The character of Lavinia is violated by two of the most horrifying characters I've ever seen on stage (Chiron and Deme-

Student Hears Obama, Oprah Speaks in Des Moines

By Sydnee Bickett, arts and variety editor

Joe Crimmings and his wife Libby moved to Iowa early last year and became involved with the ONE Campaign. If you're unfamiliar with the name, you may know the organization by the white bands worn by millions in our nation. ONE was started as a joint effort between Sen. Joe Biden and Bono as a way to alert both presidential candidates and US citizens to the world hunger and AIDS epidemics. University students across the country have joined ONE in order to ensure that a plan to end these tragedies gets on the agenda of our next US president. Libby is Iowa's ONE director and Joe is a photographer and with their staff in tow they attended all the stops on Iowa's campaign trail this year.

As I became more news-savvy last semester and finally started to grasp the concept of campaigning and the events happening in the political forum, Joe was meeting these newsmakers. I quickly became envious of not only Joe's photography but the countless opportunities they had to meet all the candidates personally and speak with them about ONE's mission. Did I mention that these twenty-somethings have met ALL the candidates? In about three months' time, we will know who holds the spots on November's ballot and the Crimmings' have met those spot-holders. I'm not sure if I was more jealous of their opportunity or the fact that for the first time in my life, I was disappointed I was not living in Iowa.

That is, however, until Dec. 8, 2007. I was within ten feet of Barack and Michelle Obama and the first lady of television herself, Ms. Oprah Winfrey. For 90 minutes I listened in awe and it's a day I will not soon forget. If I didn't have a camera to my face and a consistently fast shutter speed, my jaw would have sat on the floor.

How does a Minnesota city girl get into an event meant for Iowans? One word: connections.

I had read numerous articles from a variety of news sources about this historical event: the rally that might go down in history. For the first time Oprah Winfrey was endorsing a presidential candidate and joining him on the campaign trail to encourage voters to choose Obama for President. And I was

more jealous of the Crimmings' than I'd ever been.

But doors were opened and suddenly I found myself free to hit the road south to see Oprah and the Obamas' with my own eyes and to witness history in the making.

I went to bed dreaming of what I would say if I met him. Shouting the phrase "I love you, Barack!" didn't seem quite right. Maybe I could jump into one of my famous stories about who knows what and then end with that phrase. Maybe I could tell him I come from a long line of Republican voters but that's probably not a great idea. Maybe I would just be too



stunned, I would be speechless. Out of all these possibilities, the last sounded the most likely.

When I awoke at 6:00 AM the next morning my first thought was not my crush on Obama but "What the hell am I doing getting up this early

on a Saturday?!" Then I remembered the opportunity of a lifetime that lay before me and leaped from my bed

I was on the road and arrived in Des Moines at noon. I hadn't even stopped the car and Joe was sitting in the passenger seat. Like a kid in a candy store he exclaimed, "To Obama's of-

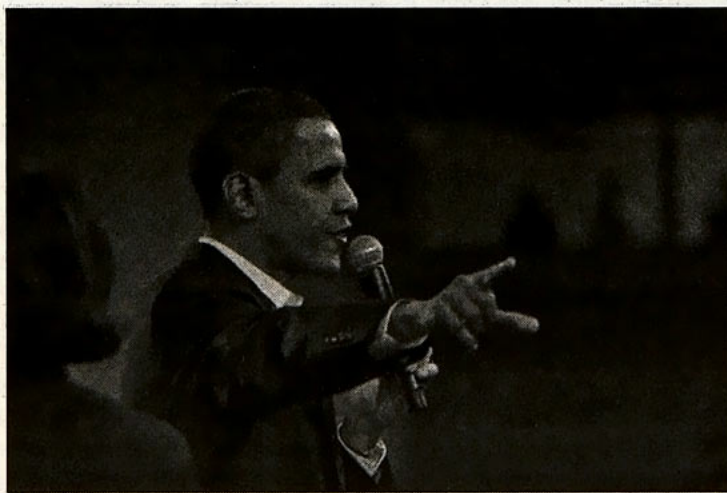
fice downtown! We just got upgraded tickets!"

Instantly, I forgot how to work a motorized vehicle. We had been upgraded from general admission seats to green tickets. Green ticket holders sat in the bleachers behind the podium and were the closest to the stage, Joe explained. My chances of meeting Oprah and the Obamas' became an almost-reality.

Fast-forward three hours and we were standing in line waiting to enter HyVee Hall in downtown Des Moines. The atmosphere was surreal. Campaign buttons of all sizes and shapes, T-shirts with slogans too

many to count, posters and handmade signs, and people of all ages chanting, "Ob-am-a! 0-8! Fired up! Ready to go!" over and over. Although I hadn't decided yet which candidate to cast my vote for, I joined in.

I realized after we found seats in the fifth bleacher row that this experience was not about my support of the candidate or about seeing Oprah Winfrey, but it's about all the principles and values the United States was founded on. Freedom of



expression, freedom of speech, right to campaign, right to vote, the right to have government. For me, the rally wasn't about party lines being drawn, or who could voice the worst flaw in George Bush's character, but about the governmental process. No matter what side you're on, left, right or middle, we're all Americans.

We have rights and opportunities in America that millions around the world would die for, and have died to have. Did I believe everything that Barack had to say? No. And that's okay. We have the right to disagree and to debate and voice our opinions. We have the right to stand up for those opinions when we feel they have not been heard loud enough.

After the event we watched every newscast that was aired and several noted that when interviewed, attendees stated they would not vote for Obama simply because Oprah said they ought to, but they wanted to hear what all the candidates had to say and only then would they make a choice.

Hearing that statement boosted my pride in America more than hearing the Obamas' and Oprah speak within the walls of HyVee Hall. I was proud to be a citizen of this nation because not only do my fellow citizens have the opportunity to make their own choices but they want to make that choice and form those opinions. Citizens of Iowa stepped out that Saturday because they wanted to hear Obama's platform from his mouth.

I know that's one reason I drove seven hours in one day. I want to hear sky-high hopes and campaign dreams from the mouths of these candidates before I make the choice of what bubble to fill in next November. Although I didn't get my wish of meeting Oprah or the Obamas', I saw and heard them with my own eyes and ears. And that's enough for me.

Luckily for Iowans, their wishes to hear those promises for a better America came true in big ways and numerous opportunities last year. Hopefully the candidates will make their way to the frozen tundra of Minnesota so my wish can come true too.

But even if they don't venture our way in 2008, at least I'll still have my memories of Dec. 8, 2007.

16 OPINION OPINION OPINION

Stephen Speaks Out, Volume 5

Stephen Batcher

Awesome- So impressive or overwhelming as to inspire a strong feeling of admiration or fear.

Stephen- Our Women's Athletic Programs...and our Men's programs.

By now all of us know that the Women's Volleyball team won the National Championship. Many of you on the other hand may not realize how good our other programs are on campus. Our Women's Basketball and Golf teams are nationally ranked, as is our Women's Cross Country, who had two of the ten all-conference selections.

Since coming to Concordia about four years ago, I can remember that during my freshman year our volleyball team was good, as well as our basketball team, the golf team was middle of the road, with cross

country a little behind. Fast-forward to today and I can see a different story. Three of the four teams are nationally ranked, and cross country is improving each year. Even the softball team has had a couple of deep runs in the NCAA playoffs in the last three years. I want to give mad props to the women and their accomplishments so far this season. We can only hope it gets better as we move into the spring and hopefully some warmer weather.

The Women's Basketball team is poised to make a strong run in the NCAA tournament and I know I am ready for another road trip to see our school in another elite eight. Our Women's Golf team will start another part of their season soon and will hopefully build on their success of the fall portion.

However, with me you always get the good with the bad. I'm sorry if you don't like it; if it bothers too much just don't read it. In the almost four

years since I have been here, I have not seen the same result in the men's programs.

I will note that the football team did win a conference championship my sophomore year and the basketball team was good last year. To be fair, we are in the rebuilding stage of our men's programs. It is not a bad thing, it is just a fact. In 2005 when we won the conference championship we were leading some important seniors. The same can be said for the 2006 Men's Basketball team.

This year the Men's programs have taken a step back and nobody can deny that fact. We are still holding out for the Men's Baseball team just like we are for the Women's Softball team. All around though, the women are out performing the men.

Exciting- Causing feelings of happiness and enthusiasm or nervousness or tension.

Stephen- March Madness is fast approaching. This will be short lived but it is the most exciting couple weeks for any sports fan. The definition could not be better suited because as much as it is a time of pure excitement and joy, it is also a time of nervousness and tension. Us sports fans can hardly wait till selection Sunday.

The Trouble with Facebook

Erin Anderson

Facebook seems harmless enough; keeping up with old friends, meeting new people, expressing yourself through your profile. But the fact of the matter is that despite its seemingly innocent agenda, Facebook has been the cause of quite a bit of trouble.

The most recent Facebook scandal occurred a few short weeks ago, and involved the students of Eden Prairie High School. School officials there were made aware of photos on Facebook depicting students drinking and took action. Some 100 students were interrogated in the dean's office and as many as 20 students were suspended from sports and other school activities.

Students and parents were enraged by the actions taken by the school. The students were upset because they felt their privacy had been in-

fringed and parents were upset because they felt the school was acting rashly. Both students and parents definitely had fair points. Many of the students interrogated were simply holding red plastic cups, and school officials assumed the cups held alcohol. Students are saying that the schools' actions are not going to

Illinois, and Missouri questioned their students, suspending and reprimanding many. Other schools have learned to turn the other cheek. At Maple Grove High School, some of their top athletes have received more than one minor for underage drinking, though have not been reprimanded.

At my former high school, St. Anthony Village High School, parents have been sending incriminating photos to the athletic director, asking him to take necessary action. Thus far, no action has been taken, but students

are worried.

Across the country, high school students are deleting photos from their Facebook page or are scrapping their entire profile. Some students are finding that these measures are not enough as photos of them are

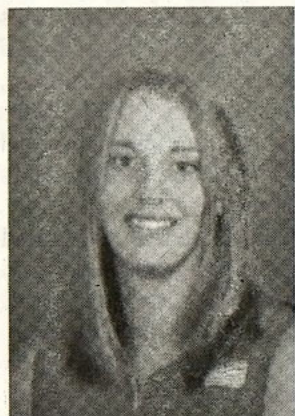
also posted on other student's pages.

Do I agree with the actions these high schools have taken? No. High schools have been drinking for decades, now it is just more obvious because of new outlets. What this situation really goes to show is that individuals need to be more careful with what they post on their profiles. I am not saying that everyone needs to rush out and delete their Facebook pages, but I am recommending that we all become a bit wiser about what we are displaying for the world to see.

The Facebook logo, consisting of the word "facebook" in a white, lowercase, sans-serif font, centered on a dark gray rectangular background.

Division I Transfer Joins Nationally-Ranked Golden Bears

By John Pimental



Gillian Bjerke

Class: Redshirt Sophomore
High School: Pelican Rapids
Previous College: Iowa State
Sport: Women's Basketball
Position: Post/Forward
Major: Kinesiology/Sports Management

Playing time is important to every collegiate athlete. So when Gillian Bjerke was told by Iowa State's head coach that she wasn't going to see the floor much this season, she decided it was time for a change. Bjerke decided to red-shirt this season and save her last two years of eligibility to be spent elsewhere.

"Choosing to red shirt was a great decision for me," said Bjerke. "Now I have an extra two years to play." She narrowed her decision down to two schools when she decided it was time to leave the Cyclones: U of M Crookston and Concordia.

"A big reason why I chose Concordia was because I wanted to continue a winning tradition," Bjerke explained.

In her sophomore year, Iowa State finished with a 26-9 record which resulted in a runner-up finish in the Big 12. As for Concordia's success this season, Bjerke is loving it. "Being 18-1 is an awesome feeling, and the girls on the team have been amazing."

Now Bjerke is in the position to help the team improve in any way she can. "For this year, I'm just helping the team get better by

keeping Amanda Behnke and Whitney Smetana tough," said Bjerke who feels her Division I experience for the Cyclones has made her strong. She hopes to transfer that strength on to her teammates in practice.

After just one month at Concordia, Bjerke is already bleeding blue and gold. Not only is she loving the success that her new teammates have been enjoying on the court, but she is also excited about her academic and professional future because of her transfer to Concordia. Bjerke plans to get her degree in sports management, and after graduation she hopes to become a graduate assistant for the women's basketball team and jump start her career in the sports world.

Working hard in practice and not getting to play in the games was always a problem for Bjerke at Iowa State, but she seems to have embraced the situation since her move to Concordia.

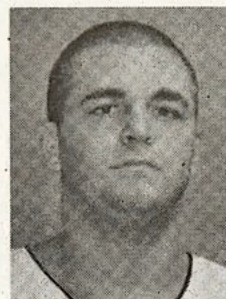
This season's success, of which Bjerke has become an active part, along with a bright future on the court next season have made practicing hard and sitting on the bench totally different experiences for the talented transfer this season.

Bjerke's hard work is sure to pay off in more ways than one this time around as she hopes to not only help her teammates to a successful end to the season but improve for her debut in the blue and gold come next fall.



A Sophomore Guard with a Senior Responsibility

By Lance Meyer



A year after his freshman basketball season and winning a school-record 21 games, Craig Heiman has found himself in a different yet somewhat familiar situation.

All eyes have zeroed in on the talented sophomore this season to be a vital leader for the Golden Bears, a role that Heiman has grown quite accustomed to over the years.

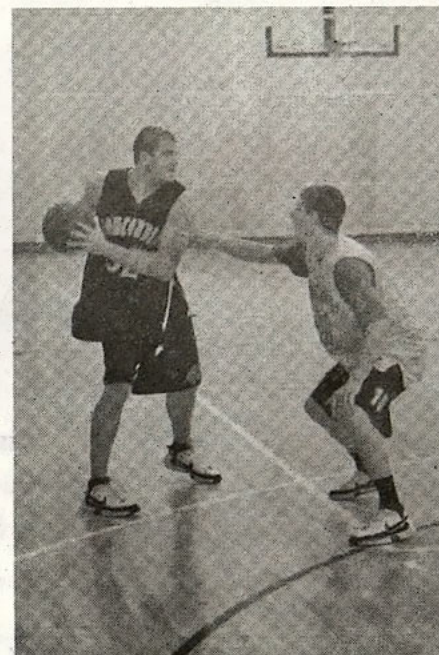
Heiman's teammates have looked to him as the go to guy throughout his entire career, dating back to his high school days when he saw every defense in the book designed to stop him. "I have been the leading scorer and go-to guy my whole life," said Heiman who then added, "I like the responsibility, but it gets really tough sometimes."

Opponents have thrown all kinds of different defensive looks at the sharp-shooting Heiman so far this season, including several double teams and even a box and one by St. Cloud. Despite the added pressure, however, he has still been relied on to score in order for his team to be successful.

Last season this wasn't the case, as Heiman was able to come off the bench and play a less demanding role for what was then a veteran and very experienced team that included five outstanding seniors. Heiman was able to slip in under the radar against most teams and get his points in a more unnoticed way. Not to downgrade his impact for the Golden Bears last year, but Heiman definitely didn't face the defensive attention he's seen so far this season.

Heiman has stepped up to the added challenge this winter, however, as he has not only led the Golden Bears in scoring but played the most minutes on the team as well. His on-court presence and 17 plus points per game this season have had a lot to do with the successes that his young and inexperienced team has had this season.

So while Heiman won't be heard bragging about his individual successes this winter, he also won't be caught complaining about the added pressure being placed on him by opposing defenses. Rather, as a captain and team leader, Heiman will be the first to admit that the Bears should be



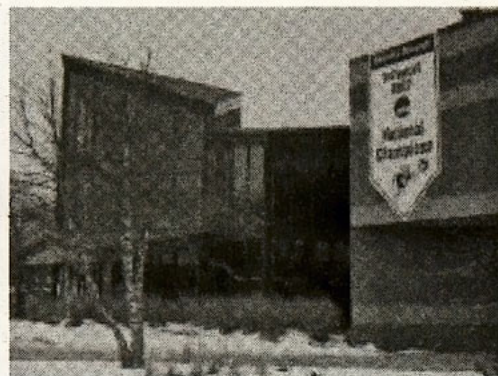
at least a couple wins better than they currently sit at the present time.

"I would give up all my individual success and points for wins," said Heiman, who knows the Golden Bears have let some games get away from them so far this winter. One such game that has stuck out in Heiman's mind was a road loss last month to Southwest Minnesota State in a Saturday contest after beating a tough Wayne State team the night before. It is tough to play well consistently on the road night in and night out, but the Southwest game was one the Heiman thought they should have won.

Bumps in the road are not unusual, however, for such a young team at this point in the season, and Heiman was quick to point out the tremendous upside and bright future that the men's basketball program has ahead of it. Not wanting to totally look ahead to next year, Heiman did make the comment that, "once the young guys come to understand what it takes to win on this level and realize that they have to give a 100% all the time, I think this team will meet its full potential and be very successful."

So if one is to attend a game or sit-in on a practice over the last month of the season, he will likely find Heiman at the center of attention, leading his team with an unmatched intensity on the court. Plays will be drawn up for him, the defense will cling to him, and the fans will yell for him, but in spite of all the pressure, Heiman will not disappoint on the court.

Volleyball Championship Draws the City's Attention



Above: The banner outside the Gangelhoff Center
Left: Interstate 94 Billboard

Photos By Lance Meyer

Upcoming Golden Bear Athletic Events

Feb. 8 Women's Basketball Home vs. U-Mary 6:00
Feb. 8 Men's Basketball Home vs. U-Mary 8:00
Feb. 9 Women's Basketball Home vs. Northern State 6:00
Feb. 9 Men's Basketball Home vs. #8 Northern State 8:00
Feb. 9 Track & Field @ Coca Cola Classic, UW River Falls
Feb. 15 Women's Basketball @ Winona State 6:00
Feb. 15 Men's Basketball @ #3 Winona State 8:00
Feb. 16 Women's Basketball @ Upper Iowa 6:00
Feb. 16 Men's Basketball @ Upper Iowa 8:00
Feb. 17-18 Track & Field @ NSIC Multi-Event, Aberdeen, SD

Twins Give up an Ace, Hope for a Good Hand in

Return By Stephen Batcher

Since the end of last season, talks have been in the works regarding a trade of Twins left-handed pitcher, Johan Santana. On Tuesday January 29 the Twins finally closed the deal and traded one of the best pitchers the Twins have ever had.

The off-season for the Twins had already been filled with ups and downs before the Santana move because they signed first-baseman Justin Morneau and right-fielder Michael Cuddyer to long-term deals but lost gold-glove, center-fielder Torii Hunter to free agency. Once Hunter signed with the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim, two-time Cy Young Award winner Johan Santana became the topic of discussion both in the Twins front office as well as across the state.

When talks first started circulating, it was thought that Santana would go to either the New York Yankees or the Boston Red Sox, but those discussions in time fell through. Neither team was willing to give up the amount of prospects the Twins demanded for their All-Star starting pitcher. Even though the Red Sox offered Jacoby Ellsbury, one of the best rookies in the league last year and the Yankees put their best prospect Phil Hughes on the trade table, the Twins were not interested in either deal.

Twins General Manager Bill Smith stood his ground instead and continued to call for at least three or four prospects in return for the coveted arm of Santana. When talks froze after the winter meetings in Florida, it looked as if Santana wouldn't be traded until spring training or even until after the season got underway.

Only recently did talks start back up again, and before we knew it, Santana was packing his bags for Queens. The New York Mets, who acquired Santana for the price of four young prospects, have spent a lot of money on pitchers in the last couple years. So although it was a surprise move for the Mets, it wasn't totally crazy.

Johan is a fan favorite so there shouldn't be too many people rooting for his failure, but the same might not be true for the Twins' new General Manager. Smith is going to be under heat for awhile for this move,

Continued on pg 19...

Top-Ranked Womens Basketball Rolling Toward the Postseason

By Stephen Batcher

The women's basketball team is quickly becoming a power house in Division II, and this season the team is poised to make a long run into the post-season come March.

The team is chalk full of talent and experience, and the Lady Bears have already been rated as high as #2 in the nation this season. Their recent and only set-back of the season, a loss to MSU-Moorhead, however, caused the Bears to drop four spots recently to #6.

Without any ranked teams on the rest of the regular-season schedule, the Bears have the possibly to win the rest of their games and go into the post-season with only one loss. It won't be as easy as it sounds, though, since the Golden Bears will remain the team to beat in the NSIC, and every other team will be looking to give them everything they have.

The veteran Bears have been led to such a great season so far by great playing from Amanda Behnke and

Katie LaViolette. The two seniors really make the Concordia offense go. Behnke has been key inside the paint, while LaViolette has been the team's floor general, leading the team in assists and creating offense for her teammates.

The Bears have also been very good beyond the three-point line. Shooting the three at a high percentage this season for the Bears has been Kelly Lund, Candace Olstad, Kale Olstad, Mary Schroeder, Jamie Jones, and Abby Neilsen. The Bears as a team shoot over 40% from beyond the arc, and they also shoot a respectable 71% from the foul line.

The Bears have the capability to follow in the volleyball team's footsteps and make a championship run this spring, and it is possible that we could raise another banner to the rafters of the Gangelhoff Center.

It's not going to be easy though as the Bears will have to continue to improve and shoot better from the field

than they have in recent weeks. However, the Bears do have the talent and the confidence to continue rolling, and it will come down to staying focused and how much they want it.

Judging from how they have played throughout the season so far, they seem to want it pretty badly; all that is left is to make their goals a reality. Let us hope they will be able to honor their hard work and bring home another championship trophy for the school this spring.



Continued from Page 18

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Photo Courtesy of <http://bostransactions.wordpress.com/>

New Coach Makes All the Difference

By Lance Meyer

Last year at this time, the University of Minnesota did something Minnesotans are not accustomed to seeing here in Minnesota. They spent big money on a nationally-known coach who they believed could elevate their men's basketball program to the next level.

If nothing else, the hire put some wind back in the fans' sails and got people hyped about college basketball in Minnesota again. Just over a month into the season, the Gophers had already surpassed their win total from last season, and the sports environment in Dinky Town was transformed into an ecstatic atmosphere filled with Tubby Smith t-shirts and fair-weather fans springing back onto the bandwagon.

On a recent Thursday night when the Gophers got set to face #9 Indiana, I got a chance to experience the re-energized world of Minnesota college basketball, a world that I was once introduced to years ago. The streets were crowded with people. Every restaurant and bar within walking distance was filled past fire code. Ticket scalpers flocked up and down the busy streets. The sub-zero air was brimming with excitement.

Because it was a nationally televised

game and the arena was sold out of seats, the scalpers were out fighting the cold and getting nearly a hundred dollars a ticket for seats that would have been hard to give away a year ago. As we made our way to our seats, I took a minute to observe the



historic "Barn" packed to the roof with fans on their feet in anticipation of what was primed to be the upset of the week.

It was hard to believe that such excitement and optimism were being shown for a team that had mostly the same makeup as the previous year with the only exception being a new coach. The pa-announcer really sent the area into an uproar when he introduced first year head coach Tubby Smith.

It's amazing what \$1.7 million a year and a new coaching philosophy can buy and do for a program. Sure, it's a ridiculous amount of money to pay a single person to coach basketball. However, given that the money would have likely been given to a less proven candidate for the job anyway, I am willing to say that the U of M athletic department got their money's

worth.

They put forth the money and got an exceptional coach who has not only proven himself in the past but promised a successful run into the future. A coach doesn't reach the NCAA tournament in 14 consecutive seasons, take three separate teams to the Sweet 16, or win a National Championship because of luck. Smith is a proven winner, and the benefits of athletic director Joel Maturi's coaching move are already being reaped by the University as fans have been put back into the stands.

So even though the Gophers



have stumbled lately, fans are optimistic for once that the program is finally headed in the right direction. Even though the Gophers couldn't quite pull off the upset on that recent cold Thursday night, Smith has the Minnesota boys playing some of the best

defense in the nation while giving a 100% effort whenever they are on the court.

There is no telling how well Smith's squad will finish off the season, but no matter what happens, Gopher basketball is on the map.

Photos Courtesy of gophersports.com

Giants Win Super Bowl XLII, Prevent History

By Lance Meyer

The New York Giants went into Super Bowl XLII this past Sunday night as huge underdogs to the undefeated New England Patriots. Tom Brady and the 18-0 Patriots were double-digit favorites and looked destined to go into Arizona and claim their fourth championship trophy in seven years.

From the opening kick, however, there was a feel to the game that not many could have expected. Pass protection was breaking down, Brady was getting hit, Moss wasn't being thrown to, and the Giants were gaining confidence minute by minute. Even though Quarterback Eli Manning and the Giants continued their hot play that had carried them through the playoffs, the Patriots

managed to hang around and ultimately take the lead with less than three minutes to play.

It seemed like the Patriots were going to squeak it out and scribe their names into the history books as time was running out for Manning. A missed Patriots tackle, a desperation throw, and an unbelievable catch later, however, sent the momentum back into the Giants' favor.

They used their timeouts to perfection, and with less than a minute remaining, Manning found Plaxico Burress wide open in the end zone for what would be the winning score. Brady's desperation heaves came up empty as the final seconds ticked away, and the Giants with their MVP quarterback Manning celebrated their come from behind victory in a



Photos Courtesy of ESPN.com

cloud of confetti.

Minutes after the game, ESPN headlines were already calling the Giants' miracle win one of the greatest sports upsets of all time. Many wanted to see it, but far less actually thought it could happen. Calling it one of the greatest of all time might be a stretch at this point, but if nothing else it was a Super Bowl that will be remembered for the sheer size of its upset and the numerous storylines that went along with it.

CAB Calendar

By Joy Sewing, Concordia Activities Board member

..February..



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 WEB & MBB @ Bemidji Games begin at 6 & 8 pm.	2 WEB & MBB @ Crookston Games begin at 6 & 8 pm. Pursuit of Happiness at 8 pm in Bastow. (Sponsored by TRUTH & The Life)	
3 Happy Birthday, Norma Rockwell! He was born in 1894.	4 Compline @ 10 pm	5 Super Tuesday... GET OUT AND CAUCUS	6 All Night Long	7 Get your newspaper! Pick up your copy of the Sword today!	8 WEB & MBB vs. U of Mary. Games begin at 6 & 8 pm.	9 THINK PINK WEB & MBB vs. Northern State. Games begin at 6 & 8 pm.
10 In 1967, the 25th amendment of the Constitution is ratified.	11 Last Day to send a love tap...BUY one in the tunnel!	12 GIVE BLOOD... Blood drive on Tier 3 from 11 am-4 pm. Dave Horn Concert @ 8 pm.	13 FISH @ 10 pm	14 ..happy.. ..valentine's.. ..day..	15 WEB & MBB @ Winona Games begin at 6 & 8 pm.	16 WEB & MBB @ Upper Iowa. Games begin at 6 & 8 pm.
17 In 2000, Microsoft released the operating system, Windows 2000.	18 Compline @ 10 pm	19 TUNE @ 10 pm	20 FISH @ 10 pm	21 Holden @ 10 pm	22 WEB & MBB vs. Southwest MN. Games begin at 6 & 8 pm.	23 WEB & MBB vs. Wayne State. Games begin at 6 & 8 pm. SPRING BREAK BEGINS!
24	25	26	27	28	29	

Do you want to proclaim your love this Valentine's Day?

Concordia Activities Board is selling love taps in the tunnel on Feb. 7, 8 & 10 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Buy one love tap for 25 cents or 5 love taps for \$1!
Celebrate this Valentine's Day by tapping a loved one.

If you have any questions or concerns,
please email Joy Sewing at
sewingj@csp.edu

Give Blood!

The second semester blood drive is Tues. Feb. 12, 2008 from 11 a.m.- 4 p.m. on Student Union, Tier 3.

Sign up online at www.givebloodgivelife.org or sign up in the tunnel on Feb. 7, 8 & 10 from 10 a.m.- 4 p.m.